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**House Bill 6354, Section 90
Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing: 3/22/2013**

***Governor's Bill 6354 – An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget
Recommendations Concerning General Government – Oppose Section 90***

The Connecticut Bar Association Elder Law Section respectfully opposes the Budget proposal that would eliminate the Commission on Aging. The Commission on Aging is a nonpartisan, public policy agency representing older adults in the legislative branch. The Commission on Aging is certainly one of the most important voices for older and disabled adults at the State Capitol.

The Commission on Aging provides invaluable assistance to the Legislature and the aging community, and is not duplicated by any other state agency or office. As an independent, non-partisan voice for older Connecticut residents, it provides reliable information based on unbiased research and state-wide surveys on issues such as on the needs of Connecticut's population for long-term care, workforce development, and aging in place.

The Commission on Aging has been instrumental in formulating the state long-term care plan that aims to shift the balance of state resources from expensive nursing home care to home care services for the elderly. The state spends over \$2 billion -- or roughly 14% -- of the state budget for long-term care services and this number will only increase as more baby boomers become eligible for and need long-term care. The Commission on Aging should continue to play a vital role in research and policy-making, especially when the baby boomer population is aging, living longer and causing a rise in demand for long-term care services.

Please support the Commission on Aging. Thank you.